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PSC TO HOLD TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR KENTUCKY ELECTRIC INDUSTRY

Study is part of Governor Ernie Fletcher's energy strategy

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 3, 2005) – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) will conduct a technical conference on a strategic blueprint for Kentucky's continued use and development of low-cost electric energy.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, June 14, in the main hearing room of the PSC offices at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort.

Testimony will be taken from parties to the administrative proceeding (Case No. 2005-00090) established by the PSC to gather data for the strategic blueprint. The six major regulated electric utilities and the 19 regulated rural electric cooperatives have been directed to answer questions relating to current and future electric generation, transmission and distribution needs and plans. Those topics will be explored further during the conference.

Also participating in the conference will be electric companies not regulated by the PSC, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, municipal electric power systems and independent power producers, as well as other interested parties, such as groups representing industrial or residential customers and environmental interests. Representatives of the Kentucky Office of Attorney General and the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet also will participate.

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Governor Ernie Fletcher directed the PSC to develop the strategic blueprint in response to findings of the Commonwealth Energy Policy Task Force. As directed by the governor in Executive Order 2005-121, the PSC is consulting with the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet and the Commerce Cabinet.

In an order issued in March establishing the administrative proceeding, PSC noted that Kentucky's low electric rates have been a major factor in economic development and a significant benefit to residential consumers. But low rates in the future "are by no means guaranteed," the Commission said.

"Only by planning today can Kentucky ensure abundant, affordable and environmentally sustainable supplies of electricity for future generations," the PSC said. "This Strategic Blueprint will be designed to promote future investment in electric infrastructure for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to protect Kentucky's low-cost advantage, to maintain affordable rates for all Kentuckians, and to preserve Kentucky's commitment to environmental protection."

The six major utilities that are parties to the case are Big Rivers Electric Corp., East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Kentucky Power Co. (American Electric Power), Kentucky Utilities Co., Louisville Gas and Electric Co. and The Union Light, Heat and Power Co.

The conference will be broadcast on the PSC Web site, psc.ky.gov. Documents in the case are available on the PSC Web site.

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.